



**Parris N. Glendening**  
*Governor*

**Maryland Department of Natural Resources**

**J. Charles Fox**  
*Secretary*

**Kathleen Kennedy-Townsend**  
*Lt. Governor*

Tawes State Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**Karen M. White**  
*Deputy Secretary*

Dear Natural Resources Representative,

The State of Maryland, in the signing of the new **Chesapeake Bay 2000 Agreement**, has committed to the Vital Habitat Protection and Restoration goal to ***Preserve, protect and restore those habitats and natural areas that are vital to the survival and diversity of the living resources of the Bay and its rivers.*** As one mechanism to address these commitments, Maryland's Tributary Strategies are being revised to include new goals for Wetland, Stream and Forest Habitat. By focusing our attention and directing our resources towards habitat, we not only work towards the improvement of water quality, but we also improve the critical support systems required by the Bay's living resources.

Members from various groups in Maryland, that are part of a broad community of agencies and organizations concerned with the management, restoration and conservation of Maryland's natural resources, are being contacted through this outreach letter. Maryland's Tributary Strategies needs your help to develop the Stream Habitat Goal. The fundamental framework for building this goal takes a "bottom-up" or "local-scale" approach. Activities that contribute towards the assessment, protection and restoration of stream resources at the individual stream reach or small watershed scale are best articulated by those familiar with the local resources, interests, programs and policies. **This is how we need your help:**

- ***Develop a Stream Assessment, Protection and/or Restoration goal for your area of authority or interest***
- ***Report your goal by December 1<sup>st</sup> to your Tributary Team representative***
- ***Update your goal on an annual basis***

### **Background:**

A workgroup of local, state and university representatives convened to develop the new Habitat Goals for Tributary Strategies. It was recognized at a very early stage that stream habitat quality integrated watershed-wide activities that directly and indirectly influence stream resources. In addition, not only was stream restoration considered important, but assessment and protection were also targeted as critical to overall stream habitat quality in the following ways: 1) Effective restoration and protection requires assessment, 2) Protection prevents further degradation of impacted streams and can maintain the integrity of high quality, biologically sensitive streams.

### **Goal Fundamentals:**

- ! **Locally developed with a focus on fine-scale issues (i.e., stream reach, subwatersheds)...**  
Groups with a local focus, such as local government, citizen groups and environmental or community watershed organizations, are better equipped to identify areas of concern, reflect local programs and issues, utilize local expertise and address local resources. Tapping into the resources and knowledge that your group can offer will enable us to build a goal from the “bottom-up” and achieve a state-wide goal that has local relevance.
- ! **Goals are to be met by 2010 and can be annually updated...**  
A time frame to meet the goals has been set for 2010 in order to be consistent with the overall Tributary Strategies. You will have the opportunity to reevaluate and update the goals you have established on a yearly basis. The earlier you set your goals, the earlier your objectives can be incorporated into the state-wide strategy. Your participation will increase your eligibility for **more funding and technical assistance**.
- ! **Funding Concerns...**  
As difficult as it is to set a goal without the implementation resources, it is a necessary and important next step towards improving and protecting our stream resources. Funding opportunities will not be aggressively pursued unless there is justification and demonstrable public support. Currently, several federal funding sources (Farm Bill, Federal Highway Bill) are being reviewed through the Tributary Strategies LEGO workgroup that may be able to fund stream projects. Your participation will provide the momentum to identify even more opportunities.
- ! **A Voluntary Program...**  
There are no repercussions if goals are not met. You have the opportunity to refine your initial goals and develop new goals every year. By participating, you simply take advantage of more opportunities to improve and protect your streams.
- ! **Multiple goal options exist...**  
This is not a “One Size Fits All” approach! The diverse array of interests, programs, impacts and issues begs for a flexible approach. Whether you are a government agency managing storm water runoff or a citizen concerned about the quality of your backyard stream, you have a voice in the development of the Stream Habitat Goal. The goals can be enumerated in a variety of ways and can be focused on a wide assortment of activities. Here are a few suggestions:

### **Options for Stream Resources Management Activities:**

Depending on your interests and area of authority, many activities which impact stream resources can be brought into the Stream Habitat Goal. Not only are in-stream restoration projects appropriate, but a myriad of rural and urban land and water management, protection, and restoration practices also fit the goal criteria. This list is not intended to include all available options, but provides a starting point as you move forward with developing your goal.

- ***Stream Assessment Goals***- Physical, chemical, hydrologic, biological assessments to support/guide protection and rehabilitation efforts

Stream Corridor Assessments

Ground water and Surface water storage and flows

Biological and Water Quality Monitoring

Streams lacking riparian buffers

- ***Stream Protection Goals*** - Efforts to prevent current or future stream degradation

New/retrofitted stormwater and sediment control practices

Irrigation and other farm best management practices

Protection through conservation easement, zoning, public ownership, streamside timber harvest restrictions

Livestock exclusion through stream fencing or alternative drinking water sources

- ***Stream Restoration/Rehabilitation Goals*** - Efforts to improve the physical, chemical, hydrologic and/or biological conditions of stream corridors in a manner that supports habitat enhancement

Riparian forest or grass buffer restoration

Removal of chemical or physical fish passage blockages

Natural channel design restoration

Riparian wetlands creation

Instream physical habitat restoration

### **Quantifying Your Goal:**

Your goal can be quantified in a very specific numeric fashion or on a project by project basis. Here are some examples, but don't let these limit you:

100 miles of stream corridor to be assessed

5 projects to be accomplished

Zoning or regulation revision

20 acres of riparian wetlands to be created

3 streams to be assessed, protected or restored

6 miles of stream restored

In addition, consider some of these approaches as a basis for setting a stream goal.

- Revisit completed watershed management plans and pull out a subset of priority projects.
- If you've applied for a WRAS (Watershed Restoration Action Strategy) grant, you can use the characterization and assessment services provided by DNR to enumerate a stream goal. For example, 100 miles of stream will be physically assessed through a stream walk for every funded WRAS (contact Danielle Lucid at 410.260.8726 for more information).
- Set goals that are based on 1) existing or anticipated Capital Improvements Budgets or on 2) assessment, protection and restoration work required through the NPDES Stormwater permits.
- Target a stream project based on local knowledge of existing stream conditions.
- Develop goals based on anticipated implementation of existing programs

**Reporting Your Goal:**

- When?** Goals need to be reported by November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2002
- How?** You should provide contact information, in addition to your goal, in the format specified in the attached Project Inventory Database sheet.
- Who?** Report your goals to your Tributary Team representative. A representative for your Tributary Basin will be identified by October 1<sup>st</sup>. The contact list will be posted on DNR's website under the Tributary Strategies Program at:  
<http://www.dnr.state.md.us/bay/tribstrat/index.html>

**For More Information:**

Please contact:

Christine Conn  
Tributary Strategies Habitat Goals Coordinator  
Chesapeake and Coastal Watershed Services  
Maryland Department of Natural Resources  
(410) 260-8792  
[Cconn@dnr.state.md.us](mailto:Cconn@dnr.state.md.us)

Thank you for considering this request and taking an active role in these efforts to safeguard and improve the condition of Maryland's streams.

Sincerely,



Verna Harrison  
Assistant Secretary  
Chesapeake Bay and Watershed Programs



**Tributary Strategies Stream Habitat Goal  
Project Inventory**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Mailing Address</b>	<b>Phone#</b>	<b>E-mail</b>	<b>Stream Goal</b>	<b>Comments</b>